

Conference Call
Tuesday: June 6, 2006

Part I: Presentation by Jim Bergman

Key Points

1. Why secondhand smoke in apartments is an issue
2. Legal Issues & smoke-free apartment policies
3. Voluntary & legislative approaches to get smoke-free apt policies adopted
4. The MISmokeFreeApartment initiative as an example of voluntary approach
5. Legislative approaches to consider locally and statewide
6. Resources available to assist you

Why smoke-free apartments?

- Tenants want smoke-free apartments
- Download opinion surveys here: www.tcsq.org/sfelp/public.htm

Why secondhand smoke seepage complaints have increased:

- People more aware of dangers
- Don't have to accept problem

Secondhand smoke in the home setting may be more dangerous and/or cause more deaths than the workplace.

Why should landlords care?

- Secondhand smoke cannot be controlled
- Smoking damages residential property
- Complaints
- Legal actions

What can landlords do?

- Adopt smoke-free policies
- Adopt new lease language

Voluntary approaches

Legislative approaches

www.mismokefreeapartment.org includes information and collateral material examples

- Radio ads
- Billboards
- Postcard mailings to landlords
- Smoke free apartment listing
- Decal
- Surveys

Resources Online:

MISmokeFreeApartment web site:

www.mismokefreeapartment.org

Smoke-Free Environments Law Project Site:

www.tcsq.org/sfelp/home.htm

SFELP apartments site:

www.tcsq.org/sfelp/apartment.htm

SFELP Condominiums site:

www.tcsq.org/sfelp/condos.htm

Additional Questions/comments

Landlords do have options to make specific buildings or floors smoke-free, but because there are already a lot of existing apartments that allow smoking, it is advantageous to make the apartment totally smoke-free, particularly ones that are new.

Are complaints coming in concerning secondhand smoke from smokers on balconies or outside?

Tenants must decide if they will allow any smoking on their grounds. If so, the designated area should be far enough away so as not to drift into nearby apartments. Send out informal tenant opinion survey.

*Note: a successful landlord has received positive feedback after making 3 of his 7 complexes smoke-free and is moving toward making all 7 smoke-free.

What about condominiums?

There is a two page fact sheet powered by 28 page analysis in:

www.tcsq.org/sfelp/home.htm

Condominium issues are difficult because of the ownership aspect. There is a market for smoke-free condominiums- don't have to worry about changing bylaws when it is a new condo.

Nuisance laws in condominiums?

It is possible to claim this.

Problems: If it isn't in state law you must convince judge that secondhand smoke is a nuisance and judge must agree on remedy. Costs money, and people don't want confrontations.

Part II: Secondhand Smoke & Policy Resources

Current projects:

- New section with relevant links up on contractor website
- Advocacy tools are also now available: info sheet, PowerPoint, op-ed, letter to editor
- Link page regarding smoking in homes and cars
- More info about smoke-free homes now also on SecondhandSmokesYou.com
- Developing signage for apartments, condos, multi-unit housing (ready in July)
- Developing window clings for home and/or cars (ready in July)
- Developing virtual tool kit to reach parents about secondhand smoke in the home:
 - o Media materials for ESDs (letter to the editor, op-ed)
 - o Ad templates to put in game programs or PTA newsletters with info on Quitline.com and SecondhandSmokesYou.com
 - o Power point slides
 - o Info sheet

Comments/Updates:

Elder smoke-free housing unit

Workers in apartment were smoking when renovating unit
Put up signs- Once aware, no longer smoked in building
*smoke-free signs for outside or indoors- useful in that situation

Retirement complex

Complaint about common area smoking- smoke traveling into apartment- difficulties dealing with “civil wars” in complexes

What are virtual tool kits going to be like?

Used to educate schools/anyone about secondhand smoke
Housed online
Accessible to all types of technologies (Word docs) easy formatting
Generic PowerPoint presentation
Ads in a few different formats
Newsletter blurbs for each month- timely

Will this be part of “Take it Outside” campaign?

Messaging will also be geared toward the quit line and cessation instead of simply “taking it outside.”

Coming from a tribal perspective: Taking it outside seems effective. Some people like smoking and refuse to quit. At least taking it outside is a step in the right direction in keeping smoke away from children and elders.

Coming from a health department perspective: messages should say that smoking is a deadly addiction and you shouldn’t smoke inside or outside. Would like to see message evolve into something stronger.

Clark County is working on multi-unit housing initiative

Working closely with three Oregon counties (Portland metropolitan). They’ve received a grant from Legacy foundation for smoke-free multi-unit housing education. Working with a Portland area housing search Web site (<http://www.housingconnections.org/>) to raise visibility of smoke-free criteria for rental housing. They will also create a strong definition of what smoke-free housing is.

Clark is also developing a smoke-free housing guide (hard copy, electronic and in English and Spanish). They will be working on the guide this summer.

Need information on what to do when neighbors are smoking outside of homes and smoke drifts into nearby homes (e.g. Halfway houses)***Bars in Seattle violating I-901 late at night***

Public health employees don’t work late at night, however some counties started the 1-901 enforcement by doing random checks late at night.

Enforcement in King County

High rate of compliance, only a few bars not in compliance.